

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 16274 161609Z

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BIRA, BE, GW

SUBJECT: EC HARMONIZED STANDARDS DIRECTIVE ON
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT DESIGNED FOR USE IN
CERTAIN VOLTAGE LIMITS (73/23 EC)

REF: A) BONN 6129; B) BONN A-251; C) STATE A-6648

1. FEDREP HAS DETERMINED THAT THE LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FALLING UNDER SUBJECT DIRECTIVE IS COVERED BY THE PRESENT GERMAN LEGISLATION, I.E. THE 1968 LAW ON SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR MACHINERY AND TECHNICAL APPLIANCES, AND THE 1935 ENERGY LAW (WITH THE 1937 SECOND IMPLEMENTING DIRECTIVE THERETO). THERE ARE STILL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE ECONOMICS AND LABOR MINISTRIES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER CERTAIN PRODUCT CATEGORIES ARE FALLING UNDER THE TERMS OF THE LAW ON SAFETY REQUIREMENTS OR THE ENERGY LAW, BUT THIS
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PAGE 02 BONN 16274 161609Z

IS A TECHNICAL RATHER THAN A LEGAL MATTER. SINCE THE

ENERGY LAW IS IN THE PROCESS OF OVERALL REVISION, IT IS MERELY INTENDED ON THIS OCCASION TO INTRODUCE A CLEARER AND MORE MODERN FORMULATION OF THE PERTINENT PROVISION (SECTION 13) AFFECTING THE EQUIPMENT FALLING UNDER THE EC DIRECTIVE. IT IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT THIS REVISION IS MADE FOR OTHER PURPOSES AND THAT THE RELEVANT REVISION IS A "BY-PRODUCT" ONLY.

2. PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 11 OF THE EC DIRECTIVE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOTIFIED THE EC COMMISSION AND THE OTHER MEMBER STATES OF THE LIST OF TESTING ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ISSUE DECLARATIONS AND MARKS OF CONFORMITY AS WELL AS EXPERTS' OPINIONS AND REPORTS. THESE AGENCIES ARE IDENTICAL WITH THOSE AGENCIES WHICH ARE TESTING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS OF THE SAFETY LAW FOR MACHINERY AND TECHNICAL APPLIANCES (SEE PARA. 4 OF REF. A).

3. NO NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN MADE YET WITH REGARD TO THE AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS AND THE PUBLICATION ON NATIONAL LEVEL ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 5 OF THE EC DIRECTIVE. THE VDE TESTING ORGANIZATION IN OFFENBACH IS THE PRIMARY ORGANIZATION IN THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN FEDERAL LABOR AND ECONOMICS MINISTRIES. THE DECISION ON THE NOMINATION IS EXPECTED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS.
HILLENBRAND

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